T/SOR/43/1/4

FERGUSLIE COMMUNITY PRESS

no1 JULY 81 10p

FERGUSLIE=council ? private ?

A sinister document has found its way into our hands that concerns the future of Ferguslie. So it concerns YOU ! Our view is, that, if its recommendations are carried out there will be no Ferguslie Park in 6years time. Ferguslie Park Crec. along with Dalskieth Ave and 139-147 and 290 Ferguslie Park Ave are to be demolished.

It probably indicates the councils intention to knock down all 3 storey tenement type houses in the scheme. There is also to be further demolition of houses in areas 5,7,8,9 over the next 18 mths. To help the council to get their dirty work done houses in the Crec. and in DalskiethAve that are empty and are becoming empty are not being relet. The pilot scheme is cancelled - tell us something new ! And obviously the houses in the pilot scheme are in danger of being demolished.

They say the Swedish houses in Barochan Crec. are to be modernised - some hope! and that the houses round about them are to be assesed. In Burnthills the council will also consider giving tenants grants for improvements and advertise to encourage among others relatives of existing tenants to apply for lets.

Our beloved councillors are going to sell Glencoats to an "unnamed" private developer. SALVESON is the developers name and destruction of the community is the game in favour of a private estate. Some of you may think that would be a good thing. Frankly you'd be mistaken!

no change

The odds are that you'd be offered a house in areas that have similar problems such as Dundonald Rd. in Gallowhill or Moorfoot Ave in Glenburn. Also we know of families who left Ferguslie and who are persecuted because of their origins.Theparents can stand it - but what about the children ?

Our houses are the best built in Renfrew district and council policy, not the tenants are responsible for their present condition.

DEMOLITION must be resisted! We must fight to get repairs done quickly and efficiently and, if that means getting rid of the contracters who are screwing us and the council- then we'll do it We want the council to consult us before taking any decision regarding Ferguslie. We want to improve our houses and get grants to do so without having the duty to repair them.

Have you never stopped to think while you're all crowded round the electric fire, if its not cut off that is- why some people can have horses living in better conditions than you. The same people tell you that "we're all in the same boat". Thats true. "But we do the bloody rowing - and they drink the Dubonnet". The same punters who live in the big houses, who own all the land, when it comes to a war run about screaming "YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU". What part of the country do you own ?

the system

The main problem with Ferguslie Park is the system we live under. It is a system that cannot create jobs for everyone and depends on millions of people not working to keep it going. Because, without millions of unemployed, the Capitalist system would collapse. Ferguslie has high unemployment and now with Talbot closing the rest of Paisley and Linwood are in the same boat.

do them ourselves

However, one way to help solve both problems in Ferguslie, high unemployment and lack of repairs would be to give the community money to repair their own houses. It might also help to create a more caring community because frankly the con-tricksters that the council employs in Ferguslie are here to make a profit not to do a quality job. And if we can't have Direct Works employees in Ferguslie, the council can keep the con-tricksters

FINALLY - WE SAY - GIVE US A LOOK AT THE REAL REPORT (anybody that drinks with Rab MURRAY has got to be dodgy) - WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING - ALEX !

COMPETITION BACK PAGE

Did You Know YOU Own A Company?

FLAGSTONE ENTERPRISES

FLAGSTONE ENTERPRISES [FERGUSLIE] (SERVICE & MANUFACTURE) LIMITED
30 McKENZIE STREET, PAISLEY, RENFREWSHIRE, PA3 1LP
TELEPHONE: 041 - 889 3280 REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND 72747

Did you know YOU own a company?

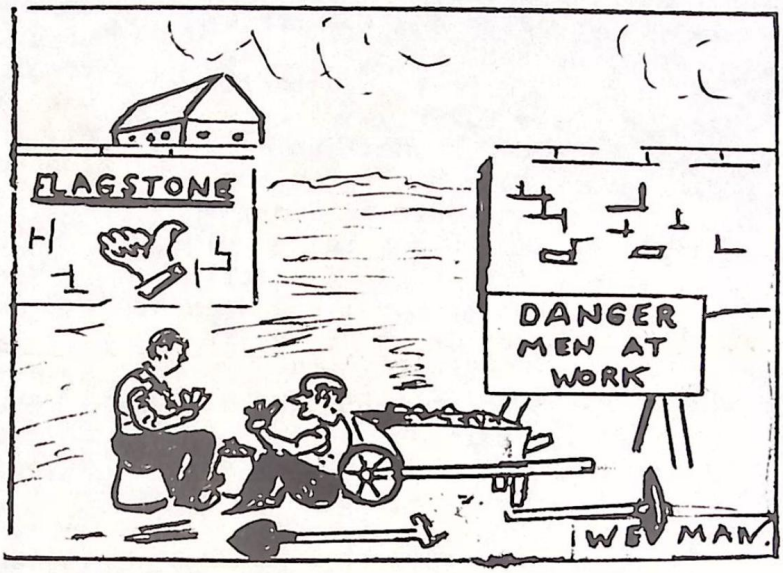
Perhaps you do but it is a fact that that Flagstone with premises at 30 Mc Kenzie St is owned bythe Ferguslie Park Tenabts Association i.e. F.L.A.G. and is controlled by a Board of Directors consisting entirely of local residents.
(Mr J Dykes, Mr S Leonard, Mr W Lawrie, Mr W Elliot, Mrs H Turner, and Mrs J Payne.)

The Company has and is assisted by Local and Central Goverment Money but the objective is to stand on our own financial feet as soon as possible to avoid the restrictions imposed by the various funding Authorities and so contribute in the widest possible way towards full employment and social assistance to the community.

Jack of all trades

We currently employ 14 local people working on a variety of projects such as General Labouring , Fencing Repairs, Stone Cleaning, Graffiti Removal, Fitting Kitchens, Roofing and Interior Renovations, Mirror Etbhing.
We are also investigating home modernisation projects to put to the public and private sectors plus second hand vehicle spares, welding and spraying also how to best utilise recently aquired Printing Equipment.
At all times we attempt to strike a balance between Commercial succes retraining and service to local Community. Not always easy with no invested risk capital but we keep the books in balance and must consider this paramount in order to accomplish any other objectives.
On the welfare aspect we provide accomadation for Social Services Intermediate Training Programme, assist with transport in cases of hardship and Community sponsored events in general when asked by the Welfare Organisations.

It is obvious that we need the goodwill and support of the whole Community in order to achieve a stable organisation with the will and assets to be a real part of the Community.



Nevertheless, a keen workforce has already shown that long term unemployed residents of Ferguslie Park can, given the opportunity, do every bit as good a job as anyone and so we already receive considerable respect within the Strathclyde Region. This means respect for YOU the people of Ferguslie Park.

HOW DO YOU BOOK THE FERGUSLIE COMMUNITY MINIBUS ?

ALL YOU DO IS ENQUIRE AT THE COMMUNITY "CENTRE" AT 130 FERGUSLIE PARK AVENUE AND ASK FOR WILLIE ELLIOT (WARDEN). OR PHONE 889 9297 OR 889 1721.

INFORMATION SHOP

In these days of rising prices, high unemployment and cutbacks in government spending on housing and social services, Welfare Rights have become a crucial issue. This is especially true in Ferguslie where social problems have been and still are greater than in many other areas because of years of neglect by national and local government.

It is very unlikely that unemployment will fall in the forseeable future or that the scheme will receive government aid on the scale which would be needed for major improvments so it is very important that those living on low incomes and in poor conditions are aware of their rights and how to claim them.

your rights!

The areas covered by Welfare Rights include Social Security, housing, repairs, electricity, gas, and legal problems but this list is not exhaustive. In future issues of our new, as yet name-less, community newspaper individual aspects of this will be covered including working out Social Security benefits, how to appeal, what single payments are for, housing policy and homelessness.

These issues are important because knowledge of your rights can mean increasing your income and improving your standard of living. When dealing with agencies like D.H.S.S. or the Housing Department you have a much better chance of getting a fair deal if you know what you are talking about and you will not be easily mislead, deliberately or otherwise.

Meantime any problems can be refered to the Information Centre at 130 Ferguslie Park Ave. (soon moving to the shops in Falcon Cres.) The Centre is there as a free service to the people of Ferguslie and the staff will be glad to help you with any problems.

Glencoats Nursery

This has been a busy year. Not only for the children and staff but also for families as they became more involved in the work of the school.

Nursery education is about helping the children learn about and understand the world they live in. We place much emphasis on the children talking about what they are doing and our success can partly be measured in parents telling us, 'he/she never stops talking. Its quest ions all the time." Hapily, its always said in a friendly way.

OUTINGS

How do children learn? A visit to a farm is preceded by stories poems and songs about animals and we have built up a model farm. We have cooked with eggs and with milk and before easter we had an incubator, hoping to hatch out 12 eggs. We had no success but did later manage to get 6 chickens which we watched grow, and chased around the classroom on several occasions when they escaped from their c ontainer .

Other visits have included a swimming pool; round trips on the local bus and on the underground and on the Renfrew Ferry and many visits to local shops. Parents come with us and help us develop lots of linked activities in the school. We have often used the community mini-bus to the point where the children now assume it is mine!

Maw & Paw

The parents room was busy, good for a cup of tea and a ble ther. From the group that goes weekly 7 mums went on to success fully complete the Open University course 'the pre-school child.' We hope more mums (and dads) will take the course next year.

We've had a good year. We like visitors in the school. Come and have a look round some time. You' ll be very welcome.

anti-dampness

The Anti-Dampness Campaign has been going for six months now and has attracted considerable support. The recent savage rents and rates increases have further angered many tenants—we were unhappy at having to pay the old rent for substandard houses, so it's hardly surprising that we were infuriated with 50% or 35% increases. Some of our houses are literally dissolving into the ground and the Council appears either unwilling or unable to do anything about it—other than to spout vacant promises about "maybe doing something in the future".

council con

We in the Anti-Dampness Campaign won't be conned any longer... That's why we've got together to get something done. To date over 80 tenants have threatened to withhold their rents from the Council if their dampness problems are not cleared up. Many more have supported the broad aims of the Campaign.

Our next plan is to prepare to take the Council to Court over their failure to carry out their legal responsibilities as our Landlords. HOWOOD ROAD TENANTS in Johnstone have already done this.....Why can't we?...It makes a change from the Council threatening US with legal action.

There is a Dampness clinic in the ACTION CENTRE on most Monday evenings at 7.30pm and Committee meetings monthly. All tenants are welcome to attend.

While we prepare for legal action we have been concentrating on fund-raising and as a result of these efforts we now have a healthy bank balance.

IF (a) your house has fungus on the walls OR (b) it has a damp smell OR (c) your clothes are damp OR (d) your family's health is endangered by damp conditions OR (e) your house is physically unsafe because of dampness.....

IF SO.....THEN JOIN THE ANTI-DAMPNESS CAMPAIGN NOW.

W.T.A.

WESTMARCH TENANTS' ASSOCIATION STARTED UP IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR AND HAS NOW GOT A STRONG COMMITTEE AND SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL TENANTS. WE HAVE MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETINGS IN A ROOM IN THE "NEW FERGUS HOTEL" (NOT THE BAR) AND WE HOLD THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MEMBERS' HOUSES.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE HAVE DONE SO FAR HAVE BEEN TO ORGANISE A SUMMER PLAYSHEME FOR THE KIDS—FOR TWO WEEKS STARTING 13th JULY—AND TO START THINKING ABOUT HOW TO USE THE NEW COMMUNITY HOUSE—WHICH SHOULD BE READY BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

AS WELL AS THESE, WE HAVE BEGUN A SURVEY ON HOUSING REPAIRS IN THE AREA, WHICH YOU WOULDN'T THINK WOULD BE NECESSARY IN OUR NEWLY RENOVATED HOMES. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE DISTRICT COUNCIL CONTRACTORS HAVE DONE THEIR USUAL "WORK" TO THEIR USUAL "STANDARD"

CAR SPARES

removals

general labouring

T.V., FRIDGE STEREO and all electrical repairs

SAND BLASTING

printing

all this and more...

omised to support us in our forts to make the Crescent a tter area to live in and he s already made approaches to e Council on our behalf. We lcome his efforts.

Get Involved

r the immediate future, we are ncentrating on the Council's ans for our area (see front ge story) and on holding a mmer Playscheme for two weeks July. If you live in the escent area, are interested in iat we are doing, and want to lp....then come along to our rtnightly meetings in the mmunity House. The next meeting s on JUNE 18th at 7.30pm. or further information contact ne Secretary, Mrs. F. Fallon at F.P.Crescent OR any Committee ember OR the Action Centre.

play our part in the Project by making sure that we don't dump rubbish-... EXCEPT in the bin!!!

Allotments

A group of tenants in the Dalskieth Rd. area jointly with the Paisley branch of Friends of the Earth have approached the district council with a view to take over vacant ground behind Dalskieth Rd. for allotments. The district council are at present considering the scheme which has been recommended for acceptance by the Community Development Ctte..

FPCAG

Ferguslie Park Crescent Action Group(F.P.C.A.G.) has recently started up again as the Tenants' Association for Ferguslie Park Crescent.WE decided to get together following the recent tragic death of one of the Crescent kids on the railway line at the back of our houses. With the help of District Councillors Olga Clayton and Thomas Wilkie, the District Council have now agreed to erect a metal fence at a cost of £30,000- to stand between our kids and the temptations of the railway line.

Following the work needed to get together to petition for this fence, some of us thought that we shouldn't just leave things at that, but that we should try and press for improvements for the whole area.So we formed the F.P.C.ACTION GROUP.

results

Successes so far have been a speed-up in inspection of house repairs, some action on better use of the waste ground in the area, initial plans to do up our Community House, and to start a Playgroup there, and a rare "visit" from our District Councillor-Mr.Wilkie.He has promised to support us in our efforts to make the Crescent a better area to live in and he has already made approaches to the Council on our behalf.We welcome his efforts.

Get Involved

For the immediate future, we are concentrating on the Council's plans for our area(see front page story) and on holding a Summer Playscheme for two weeks in July.If you live in the Crescent area, are interested in what we are doing, and want to help....then come along to our fortnightly meetings in the Community House.The next meeting is on JUNE 18th at 7.30pm. For further information contact the Secretary, Mrs.F.Fallon at 69 F.P.Crescent OR any Committee member OR the Action Centre.

Yop Squad

Have you noticed a group of youngsters cleaning up in the area?Did it make a pleasant change from the usual image we all have of the teenagers in our area?

Well, they are employed on a Youth Opportunities'Project, sponsored by FLAG, to go around and tidy up the area in which they live.

After a shaky start, the Project went into full gear in early Spring and work undertaken has progressed satisfactorily.There have been no adverse reports on the teenagers' work and indeed any comments have been very favourable.

As well as cleaning up in the area, the young people have also done some gardening work for pensioners and have decorated a community house.

One bad note to end on, however.Despite the work of the teenagers the areas the tidy seem to end up as bad as ever within days of them leaving.We have to play our part in the Project by making sure that we don't dump rubbish-... EXCEPT in the bin!!!

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The Leisure Centre

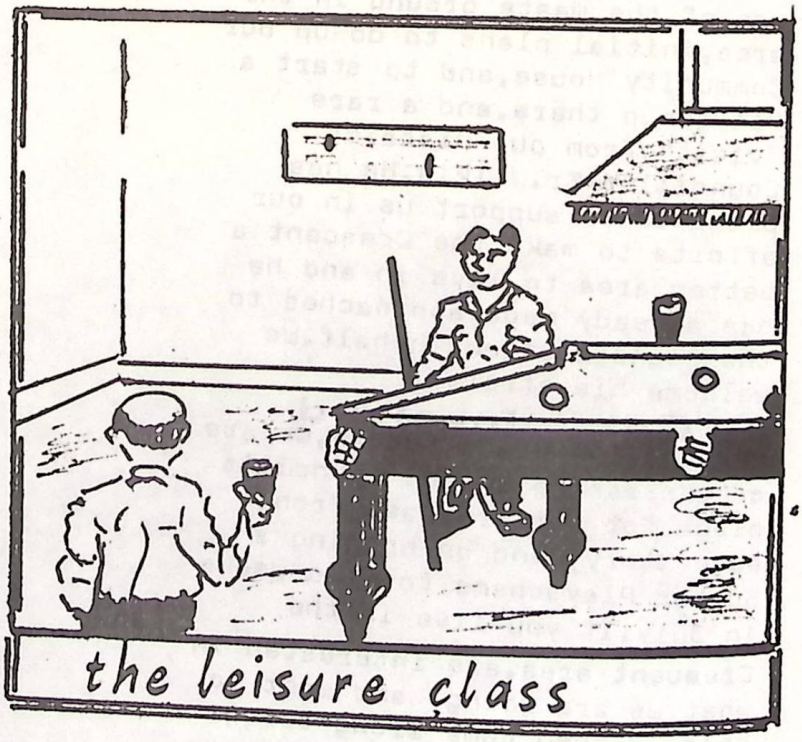
The Leisure Centre has just re opened after a temporary closure for alterations. At the moment, the activities are mainly youth orientated but the adult probramme will re start on Monday 27th of April.

The programme is as follows

Senior Youth Club.	Monday		
	Thursday	1.30pm.	9.30pm.
	Sunday		
Junior Youth Club	Tuesday	7.00pm.	9.00pm.
	Sunday	2.00pm	4.00pm.
Junior Dance Section	Tuesday	5.00pm.	7.00pm.
Adult Badminton	Wednesday	8.00pm.	10.00pm.
	Saturday	10.00am.	12.00 noon.
	Sunday	10.00am.	12.00 noon.
English Refresher Course (Started 27th April 1981).	Monday	2.00pm	4.00pm.
Dressmaking (Started 29th April)	Wednesday	7.30pm.	930pm.
Haircare (Started 28th April).	Tuesday	10.00am.	12.00. noon.

after school care project

The latest developement in the Leisure Centre is the introduct ion of the After School Care Pro ject. This is aimed at the sch ool aged children of single par ents living in the area. The children come into the centre after school and stay until mum or dad return from work. In sch ool holidays all day care is giv en for the working patent family. Some of the children stay for tea and favourites like fish fingers and chips are provided at the cost of 25p. If the single par ent is not working the child is still welcome and the parent en couraged to help. At the moment most of the parents are not work ing but some are actively looking for work knowing that the project is meeting this caring service. The project started at the begin ning of April and around twenty kids are attending daily. Month ly meetings of the parents will be held. Further details can be had from' The Co ordinator, Sandra Mc Call, either by tele phone, phone 887 5301 or calling at the Leisure Centre. You will be made very welcome.....



Craigielea Primary School

Mini-Bussing

The school has been lucky enough to have had the use of the new minibus on Wednesdays for school outings, as well as being used by the Netball and Football Teams for travelling to "away" fixtures it has been used by quite a few classes for going to educational visits. Most of the primary 6 & 7 have now been to Kelvingrove Museum and Art Galleries as well as the Transport Museum, where they were all doing work sheets on the various exibits. Future visits have to include the Peoples Palace at Glasgow Green, and Haggs Castle Childrens Museum.
The Nursery have also been regular users of the bus visiting various shops and Supermarkets as well as local places of interest. Also by going in groups the whole of Miss Campbells primary 2 class went to Calderpark Zoo as they were doing an "Animal" project at the time. All in all, the bus has put to good use at the times we have had it at our disposal and for that we are grateful.

netball team

The Netball Team has participated enthusiastically in both the Win ter and Summer leagues of the Renfrewshire Association Primary Schools Section. The girls of primary 7 were new to netball this season and their results have reflected this particulary for those games played inthe Win ter League. However the girls are now settling into the game and playing with such enthusiasm and obvious enjoymentthat (hopefully success is just on the horizon.

Fitba

Though our footballing achieve ments have been modest this season the games were always full of int erest. The gig guns of St Cather ines and Gallowhill brushed our challenge aside but we managed to give as good as we got in our oth er fixtures.

Here is our final league position.

P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
14	7	7	0	36	49	14

St. Ninians

YOUTH WORK.

St Ninians has maintained a full Youth Programme throughout the winter months with Boys Brigade meeting on Wednesday and Friday eveningsand the Youth Club on Mon days and Thursdays. In addition the church has been opentwo after noons weekly offering recreatopn al activities to unemployed young people.
It became apparent last summer that many youngsters living in Ferguslie Park Cresent & Dalskie th Ave had little or no contact with any Youth Club in the scheme Consequently we opened what was formerly the "Playhouse" at 35 Ferguslie Park Cresentas a drop in centre for young people living in the neighbourhood two evenings weekly around 20 youngsters now drop in to listen to records meet their friends, play snookeror table tennis etc.
In addition to the usual indoor club activities we have made good use of the Community Minibus tak ing groups of young people regul arly to the Magnum Centre else where and an Easter camping week end at Loch Lomond. In the course of any week around 200 youngsters are involved with one or otherof St Ninians Youth activities and we will continue to make youth work a priority in the year ahead.

Win a £5'er

COMPETITION for naming the Community Press.

IT'S YOUR PAPER ! YOU NAME IT !

Aprize of £5 will go to the individual or organisation who provides the best name. To be decided by those involved in the production of the second issue.

Entries to- F.L.A.G. Centre,
130-134 Fergusiie Park Ave.

The FERGUSLIE COMMUNITY PRESS is a monthly newspaper and will be on sale from the first week in every month. It is jointly sponsored by the Craigielea Community Council and Fergusiie League of Action Groups. The Community Press will distribute information on important events and issues within Fergusiie Park to as many tenants as possible. Highlight problems within and campaign for the general improvement of the area.

Support Needed

To accomplish these goals we need the the support and co-operation of all groups and organisations within Fergusiie Park in order to provide regular news/ articles about their activities. The pages of the Community News are also open to any individual in the scheme who has something to say about life here. Any articles or letters or news items should be handed into F.L.A.G. Information Centre at 130/134 Fergusiie Park Ave. (Tel. 889 1721/2) by the fourth Monday in every month.

The editing of each months issue will be done by those who have involved them selves in any way to that issues production.

OAP's RULE OK ?

DID YOU KNOW ? That there is a Day Centre now open at 130 Fergusiie Park Avenue. This Centre is a (bottom left)flat that has been converted into a Pensioners Day Centre. This Centre is open daily from Monday to Friday from 09.30- a.m. onwards, and again on a Sunday, but closed on Saturdays. Now this flat is fully furnished with Lounge, Reading Room (Libr-sry) and a Games Room, as well as a fully equiped kitchen where you can have tea coffee or even a snackif you feel like it.(Everything laid on for your comfort) and will not cost you a penny, (All you need is your Pension Book to join this happy group. Why not come along and meet old friends, as well as making new ones.

JOKE & BINGO

There is nothing wrong with haveing a good laugh and joke, and talking about old times, as well as all the latest gossip. Over and above the usual Day Centre activities we have our own Bingo Sessions every Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in the Community Hut Blackstoun Rd, and so far this has been a huge soccess. If you would like to know more about this "Centre" Enquire at the F.L.A.G. Information and Action Centre at 134 Fergusiie Park Avenue, or again come direct to to the Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday mornings from 09.30.a.m. to 12.00. and see Mrs Margaret Allen (Chairperson) AND she will let you know what it is all about.

MARGARET ALLEN.

WANTED

letters articles news items